Recommendations for Improvement of Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

8/25/2004

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Presentation Outline

1. Research goals
2. Research findings
3. Recommendations
4. Tour of model project website

Research Goals

Research Goals

1. Examine spring water users perceptions of the Thousand Springs Area surface water modeling project
2. Recommend ways that IDWR can work to improve stakeholder support for the project

Research Methods

- Interviews with 11 stakeholders (June – December 2003)
  - 10 spring water users
  - 1 ground water user representative
  - Also, 1 water master
- Observation at public meetings in Hagerman
- Surveys (40 received)

Research Findings

Spring Water Users Feelings Towards the Modeling Project*

- Mixed response overall:
  - Some feel it is a step in the right direction
  - Some feel IDWR should instead focus on practical actions “on the ground”
  - Many were neutral, or did not comment

* Based on interview and survey comments. Most interviews took place before public meetings presenting the model to stakeholders.

Concerns of Highest Importance

- Enforcement of prior appropriation doctrine
- Sustainability of spring flows
- Consistent regulatory process for all water rights
- Management and maintenance of the water delivery system
- Efficiency of the water delivery system
- Honesty and trustworthiness of water users
- In-stream flows

Barriers to Stakeholder Support for the Modeling Project

- Trust in IDWR
  - Is the model going to be biased?
- Perceived relevance of the model
  - Will the model lead to actions on the ground that address my concerns?
  - Will the aquifer be included in the model?
- Perceived accuracy of the model and model data
  - Will the data be accurate? Where does it come from?

Recommendations

IDWR Implementation of Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement Recommendations

- Involve stakeholders in identifying/defining the problem and modeling objectives
  - IDWR is seeking volunteers for Phase II objective development meeting
- Set clear expectations about how the model will/can be used in decision making
  - IDWR will clarify expectations for use of the model when developing the next phase

IDWR Implementation of Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement Recommendations

- Develop the model with an open and transparent process
  - IDWR plans to continue conducting public meetings, and to make technical meetings available to interested parties
- Outreach presentations and materials should be organized around specific stakeholder concerns, and describe how the model is relevant to these concerns
  - IDWR will attempt to maximize stakeholder relevancy of presentations and materials

Website and Model Design Recommendations

- Make the website easier to use for those with less technical expertise
- Provide better resources for those without a high-speed Internet connection
- Make model data sources more transparent
- Provide information about data accuracy and certainty (when possible)
- Make efforts to directly address stakeholder concerns in model design
- Provide commenting functionality on the website
- IDWR will attempt to incorporate these suggestions

Tour of Model Project Website

Idaho Department of Water Resources - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Drought Emergency Declarations Issued In 2004 By IDWR

Here's where you can get information about the issue involving the priority call for delivery of water by Rangen, Inc. in the Magic Valley

Idaho Legislature

The Natural Resources Interim Legislative Committee on Water Supply and Management Issues.

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IDWR Forms, Rules & Statutes

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for Idahoans today and in the future.

Idaho Water Resource Board

News & Events

The Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Advisory Committee submitted a recommended ground water management plan. You can read the:

- Recommended Plan; and
- Public Comments About the Recommended Plan

Drought Emergency Declarations Issued In 2004 By IDWR

The Nez Perce Water Rights Agreement is now available for your review.

- Nez Perce Fact Sheet
- A Summary of the Agreement
- The Full Agreement (6 MB file)

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Top Visitor Picks

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IDWR Forms, Rules & Statutes

ESRP Water Right Transfer Processing Procedures

Adjudication & Water Rights Search (text-based)

Adjudication & Water Rights Search (map-based)

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Surface Water Modeling

River Flows for Recreationists

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Flood Plain Management
Hydrologic Services
Snake River Basin Adjudication
Streams & Dams
Water Districts
Water Rights
Water Supply & Measurement
Well Information
Planning

Learn more about:

Water Plans
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Water Resource Board

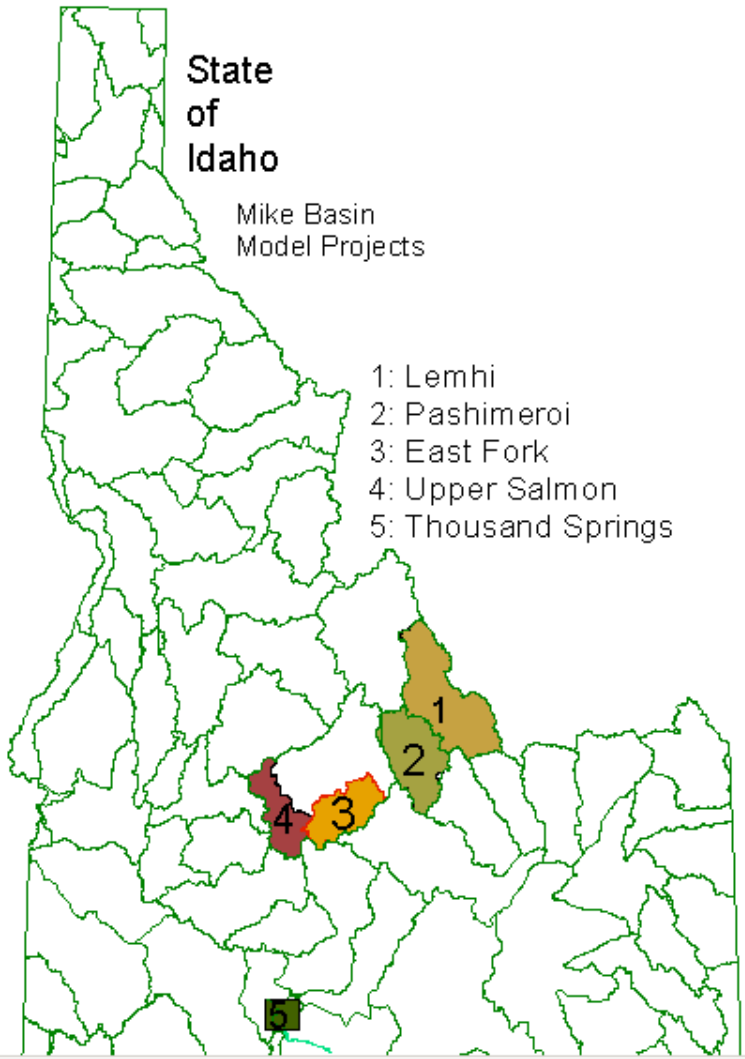
Main Topics:

Flood Plain Management
Hydrologic Services
Snake River Basin Adjudication
Streams & Dams
Water Districts
Water Rights
Water Supply & Measurement
Well Information
Planning

Learn more about:

State of Idaho Map with Modeling Projects

(Click on map location or name for hyperlink to project page)



Several current surface water projects by the Department of Water Resources involve the use of DHI's MIKE Basin modeling software running in ESRI's ArcView.

Current MIKE Basin Projects

1. Lemhi River
2. Pahsimeroi River
3. East Fork River
4. Upper Salmon River
5. Thousand Springs Area

Main Topics:

- Flood Plain Management
- Hydrologic Services
- Snake River Basin Adjudication
- Streams & Dams
- Water Districts
- Water Rights
- Water Supply & Measurement
- Well Information
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Learn more about:

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- Water-Related Districts
- Water Resource Board

Thousand Springs MikeBasin Model Project

Modeling Project

Goals are to develop a MIKE Basin model to simulate water distribution from springs and streams north of the Snake River from Twin Falls to King Hill, Idaho, to be used as an adaptive management tool for planning and project reporting and to educate stakeholders of the complex hydrologic and water allocation concepts that encompass water management in and around Hagerman.

Model Area is between the northern rim and the Snake River from approximately Twin Falls to King Hill, Idaho.

Data Sources are spatial and tabular information. These will be integrated to develop the model.

View the Model Project on the web at:
http://maps.idwr.state.id.us/swmodel/viewer.htm

Public Meeting Invitations & Presentations

First: December 1, 2003, (pdf) 7:00 pm at American Legion Hall, 281 N. State street, Hagerman
Presentation: (1) Introduction, and (2) Modeling

Second: January 20, 2004, (pdf) 7:00 pm at American Legion Hall, 281 N. State street, Hagerman
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Public Outreach Initiative

Through interviews, surveys, and public meetings, we are soliciting input from a great number of water users and stakeholders in the Thousands Springs area. This input includes:

- Local knowledge and data about water use and distribution
- General and specific concerns about water management and distribution
- Suggested paths to resolving water management and distribution problems

Read more about the public outreach initiative.

Survey to be filled out

Main Topics:

- Flood Plain Management
- Hydrologic Services
- Snake River Basin Adjudication
- Streams & Dams
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Mike Basin Model Project, Thousand Springs Area

Public outreach initiative

It is important that the Thousand Springs area surface water modeling project address the concerns of local water users. To gather information about these concerns, we conducted interviews, distributed surveys, and organized community meetings in Hagerman, ID.

Interviews: Between June and December 2003, a graduate student working for IDWR interviewed 12 water users and stakeholders in the Thousand Springs area. He designed these interviews to gain a detailed understanding of the variety of problems faced by local water users, the concerns they have regarding water management and distribution, and their initial responses to the surface water modeling project.

Surveys: To compare interview responses to the broader population of water users in the Thousand Springs area, IDWR mailed surveys to all water right holders on record. 40 completed surveys have been received as of March, 2004. Initial results from the survey responses were presented on March 11, 2004 in Hagerman, ID. If you have not yet completed a survey, please download and print our survey and mail your response to Sudhir Goyal (see contact information).

Public meetings: Four public meetings are being held in Hagerman, ID at various stages in the surface water model development process. During these meetings, IDWR staff members present status reports and answer questions. The agenda for the first three meetings are available for review: December 1, 2003, January 20, 2004, March 11, 2004.

How information gathered from the public is being used

Surface water model development: Developers of the surface water model have relied on local knowledge provided by the two water masters to ensure that the model accurately represents the surface water delivery system. They are also interested in receiving input from water users regarding the accuracy of the model or water flow measurement data that is not yet included in the model.

Background narratives about the water delivery system: Information provided during interviews have been synthesized into a series of narratives that describe some of the historical events and circumstances that affect the way in which water is delivered today. These narratives are meant to provide context to the model output.

- The Snake River Basin Adjudication and its Impacts on Hagerman Valley Water Users

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- The Snake River Basin Adjudication and its Impacts on Hagerman Valley Water Users
- Reductions in Spring Flows in the Thousand Springs Area
- Mitigation Water From the North Snake Ground Water District
- Context Leading to the Delivery of Mitigation Water to Curren Ditch by the NSGWD
- Curren Tunnel
- Bar S Ditch
- North Pipeline, Lateral of Curren Ditch

Project evaluation: Kevin Ramsey, a Graduate Student at University of Washington who has been involved with this project since June 2003, has published an analysis and evaluation of the surface water modeling project as part of his master's thesis research. The thesis specifically emphasizes the public outreach process. The thesis can be found at: http://students.washington.edu/kramsey/KR_Thesis_Final.pdf

Your input is still valuable

Your input is still valuable to the success of this project. Please contact Sudhir Goyal (see contact information) to share your comments or request additional information.

Main Topics:

- Flood Plain Management
- Hydrologic Services
- Snake River Basin Adjudication
- Streams & Dams
- Water Districts
- Water Rights
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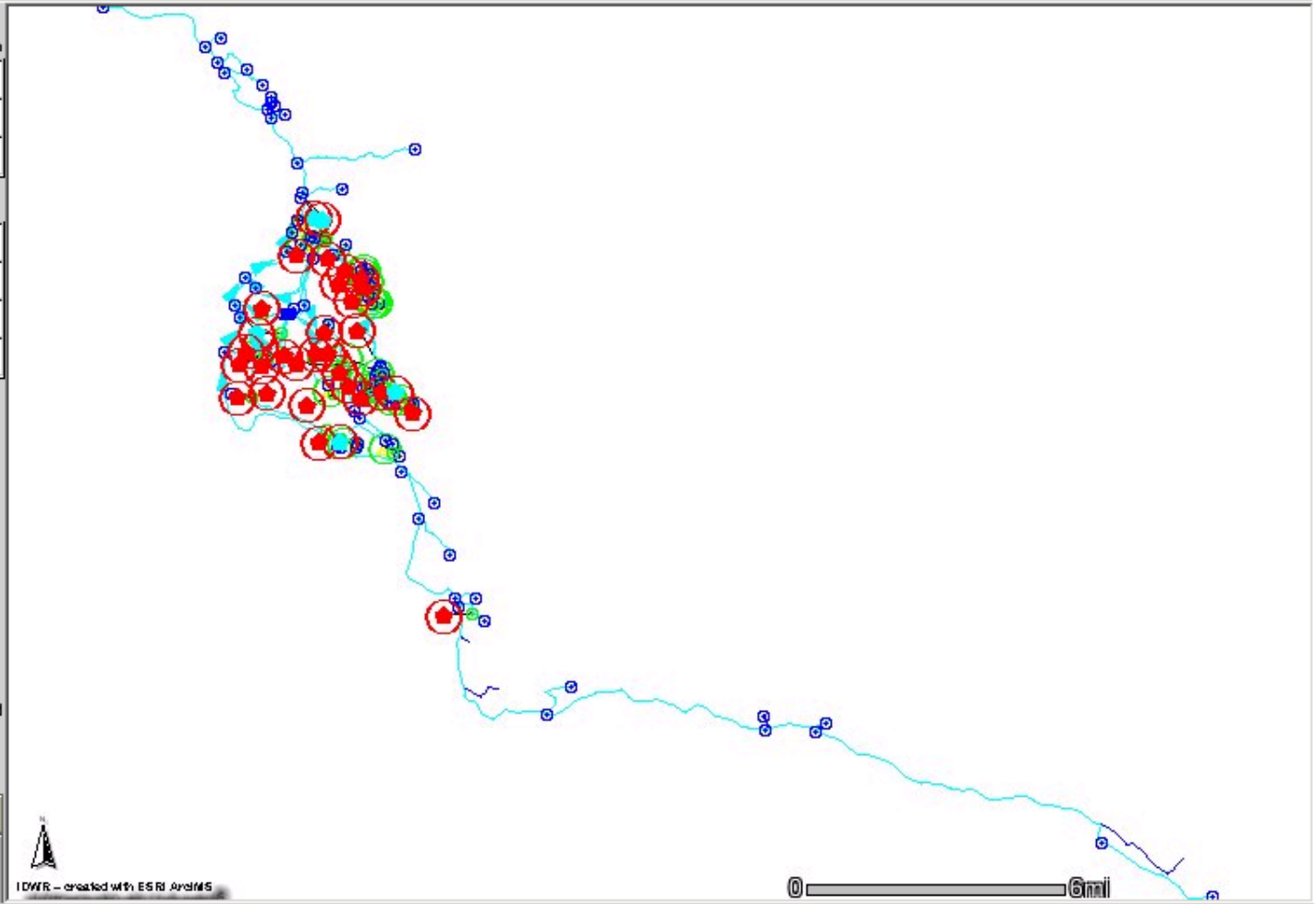

Layers | Legend

- Base Map
  - Stream Network
  - Connection
  - Branches
  - Water Supply
  - Nodes
  - Irrigation
- Background Images
  - Background (west)
  - Background (east)

Active Layer

Nodes

Refresh Map

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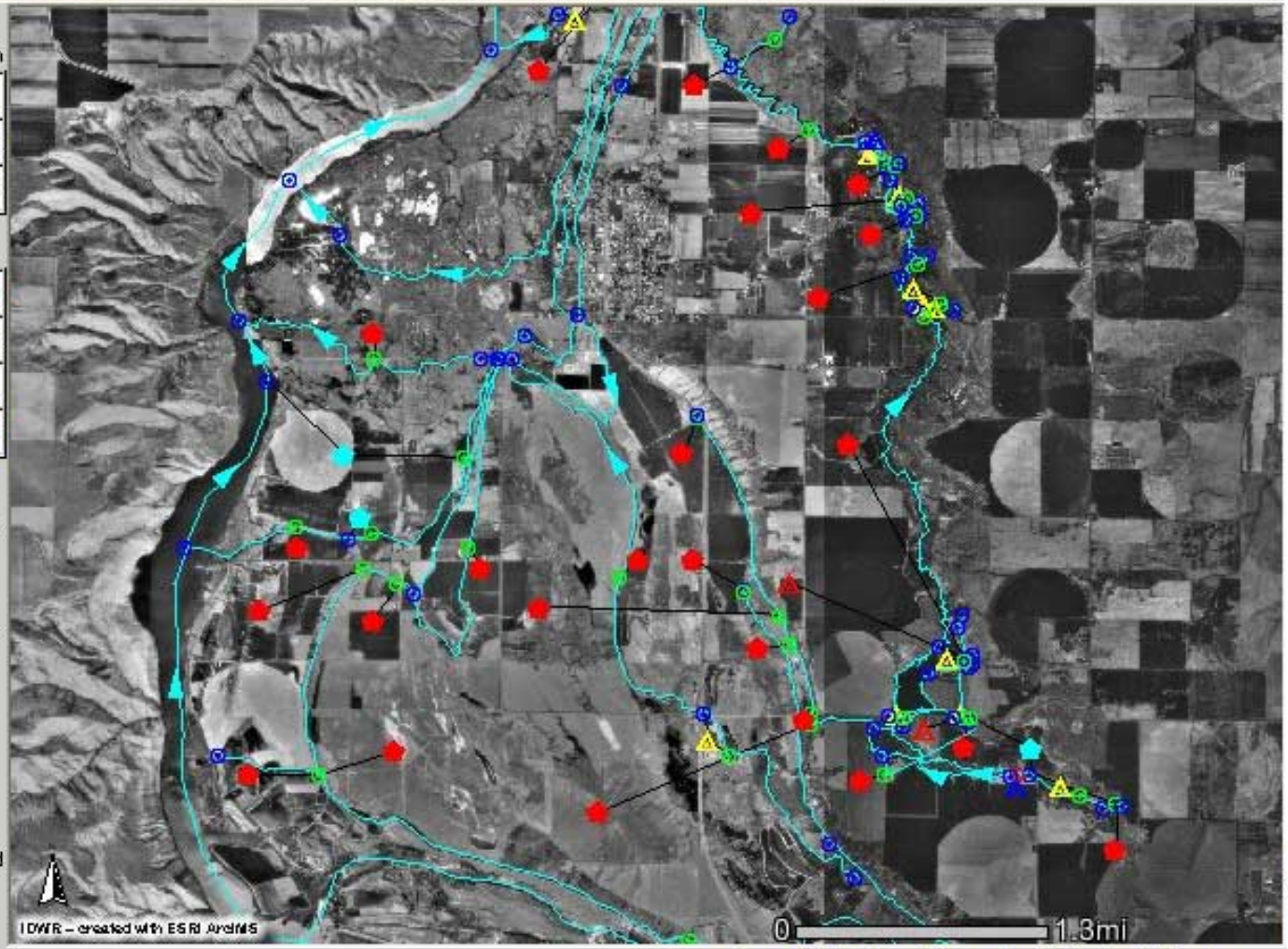

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Nodes
Node
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Water Supply
Combined
Withdrawal
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Active Layer

Nodes

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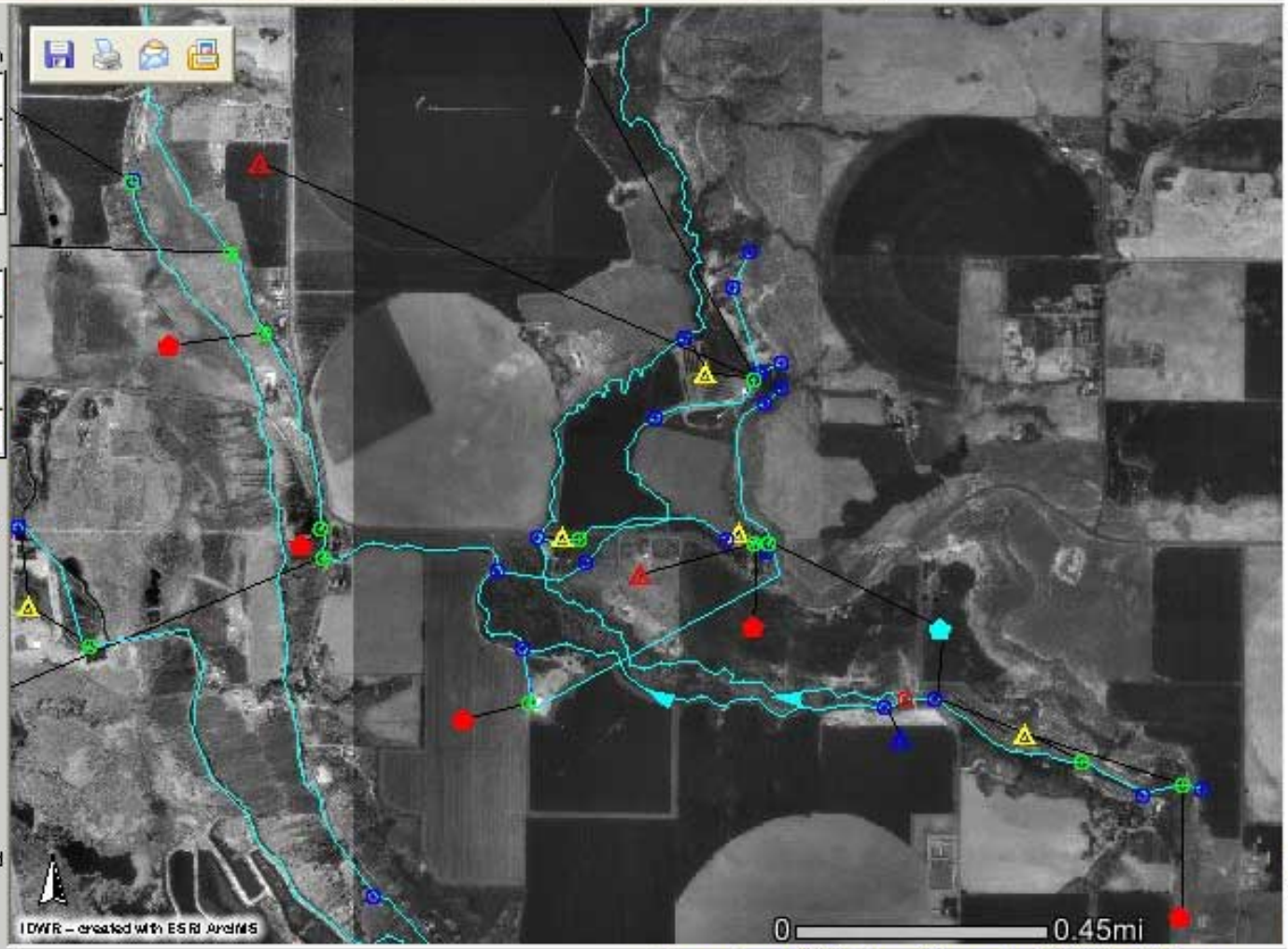

Layers | Legend

Legend

Irrigation
- Combined
- Withdrawal

Nodes
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Branches
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Connection
Stream network
Background (east)
Background (west)

Active Layer

Nodes

Refresh Map

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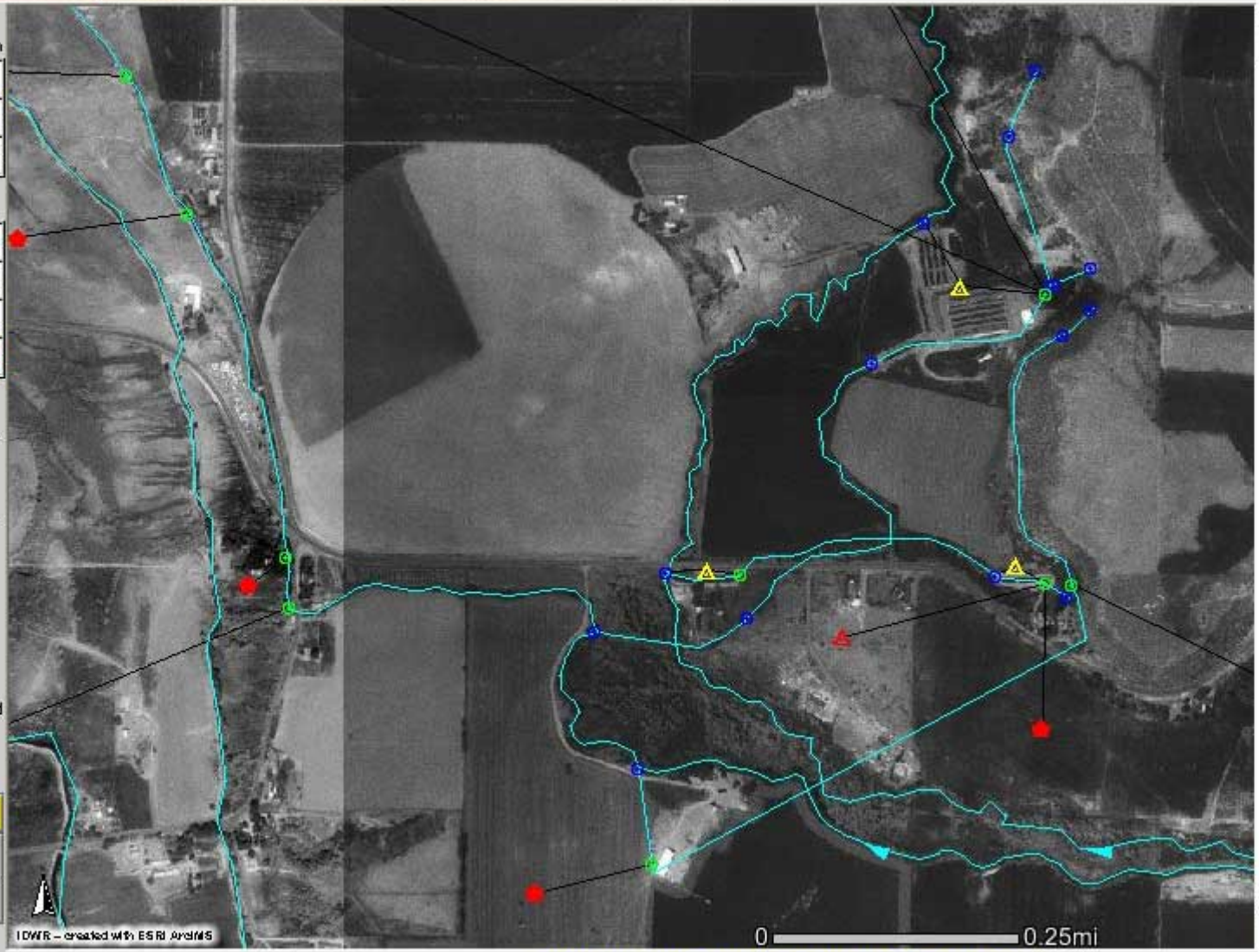

Layers | Legend

- **Base Map**
  - Stream Network
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  - Branches
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  - Nodes
  - Irrigation
- **Background Images**
  - Background (west)
  - Background (east)

Active Layer

Nodes

Refresh Map

Zoom In

Download GIS data from the IDWR FTP site.

Map: 428761.17 , 188195.12 -- Image: 323 , 6 -- ScaleFactor: 2.8277737905668916

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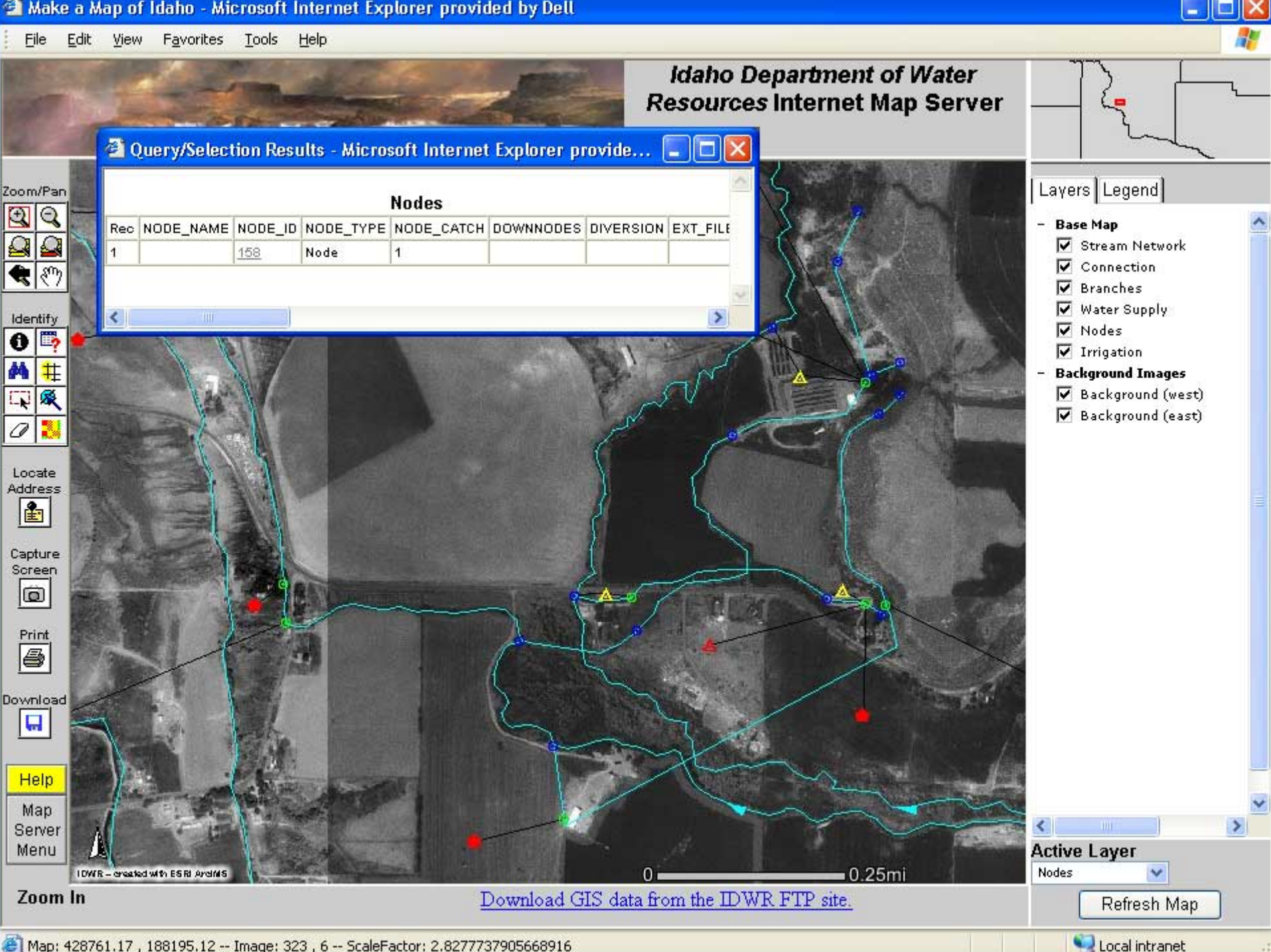
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Query/Selection Results - Microsoft Internet Explorer provide...
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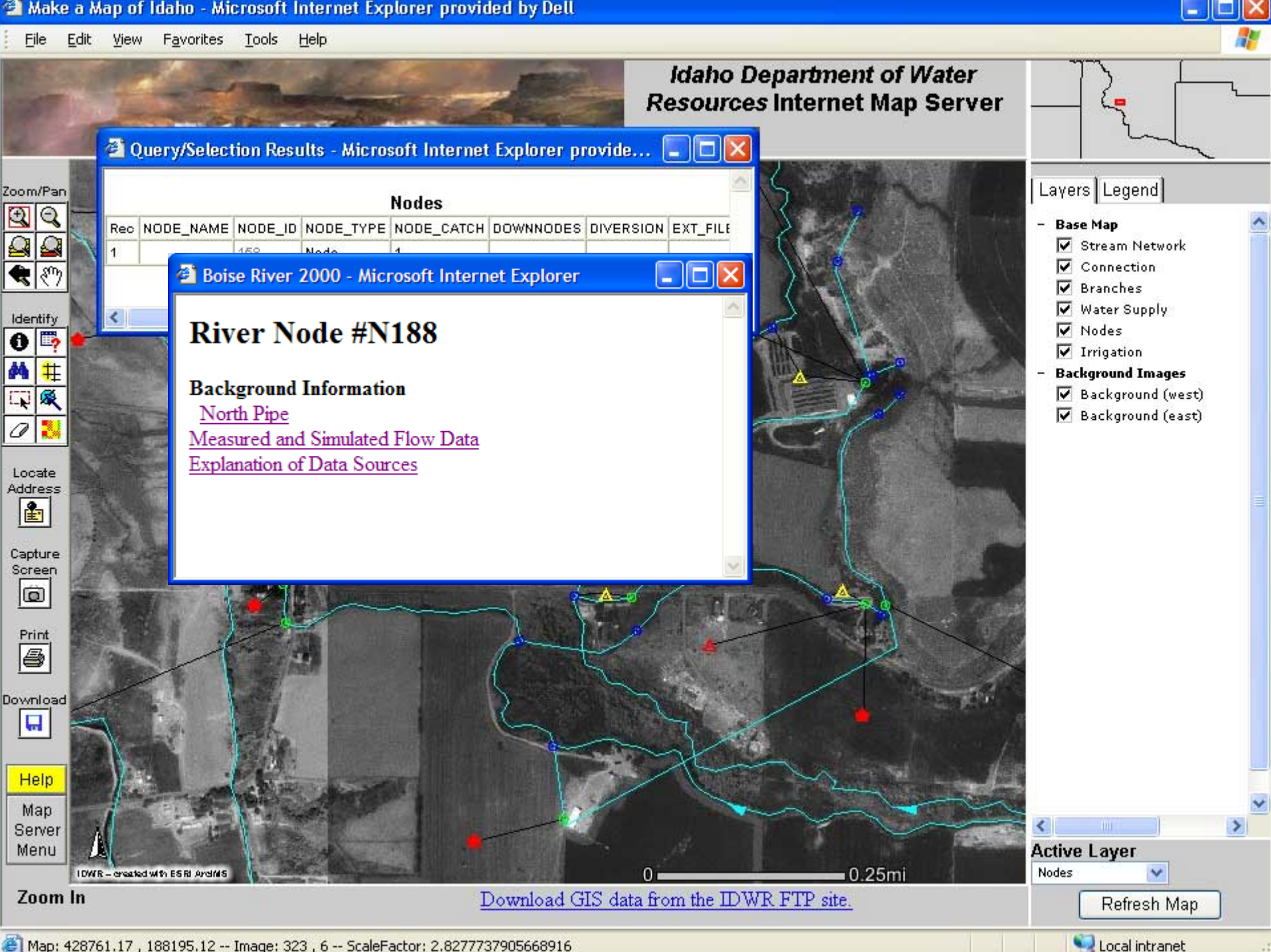
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Boise River 2000 - Microsoft Internet Explorer
River Node #N188
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North Pipe
Measured and Simulated Flow Data
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Surface Water Model Presented by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and DHI

Details for river node # 169

Time	Net flow to node (ft^3/s)	Unallocated water (ft^3/s)
2001-01-01:00:00:00	3.99	3.99
2001-01-02:00:00:00	3.99	3.99
2001-01-03:00:00:00	3.99	3.99
2001-01-04:00:00:00	3.99	3.99
2001-01-05:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-06:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-15:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-20:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-24:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-07:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-08:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-09:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-10:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-11:00:00:00	4.3	4.3
2001-01-12:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-13:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-14:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-16:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-17:00:00:00	4.14	4.14
2001-01-18:00:00:00	4.14	4.14

North Pipeline, lateral of Curren Ditch

By Kevin Ramsey
Last updated: March 12, 2003

North Pipeline is maintained by Western Legends. It delivers water from Curren Ditch to thirteen water users. Twelve have rights to Weatherby Springs water, which is delivered via Bar S Ditch and Curren Ditch. The pipe also conveys Billingsley Creek water to the Old Curren Ranch Hunt Club, which is associated with Western Legends.

Some Weatherby Springs water users take their water from the middle of the pipe. These diversions are not regulated nor measured. The water that reaches the end of the pipeline spills into a box with four exit points (see photos below). Two of these points are used for delivering water to the OCRHC. The other two exit points deliver water to Bar S Ditch water users via two different ditches.

Due to a complicated chain of events (see Bar S Ditch) there are more claims to water than is generally available at the end of the North Pipeline.

Photos of the box at the end of North Pipeline ***(taken July 2003)***

Questions?
Comments?

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